

County Snapshot

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Sierra County is bordered by Plumas and Lassen counties to the north, Nevada County to the south, Yuba County to the west, and the State of Nevada to the east.

By the year 2020, Sierra County's population is projected to reach 3,600, an increase of 3.4 percent over the current population.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force to be 1,600 with an unemployment rate of 9.5 percent. The state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for the same year.

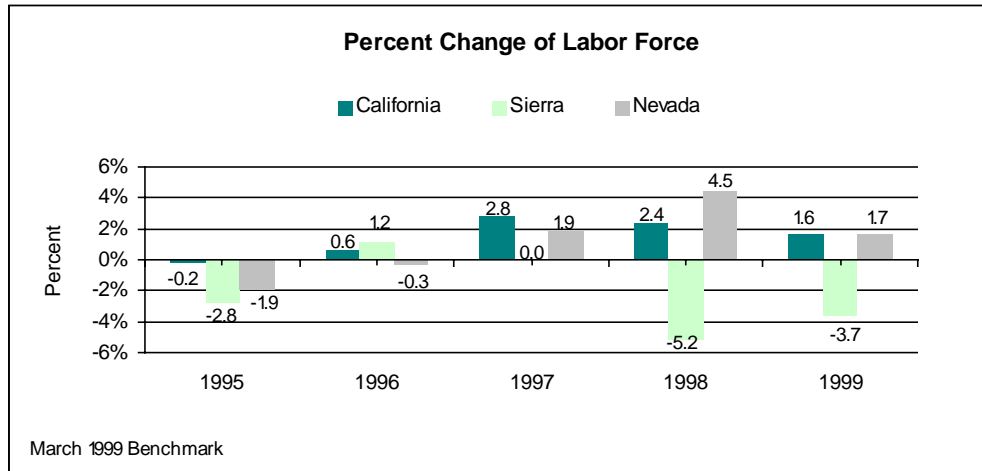
Government is the dominant industry division in the county, accounting for over 46 percent of the total employment. Within government, a majority of the jobs are available in local government.

Industry employment projections indicate that most of the new jobs in Sierra County's nonfarm wage and salary employment will be in the services, goods producing and government industries. Services is expected to grow by over 66 percent.

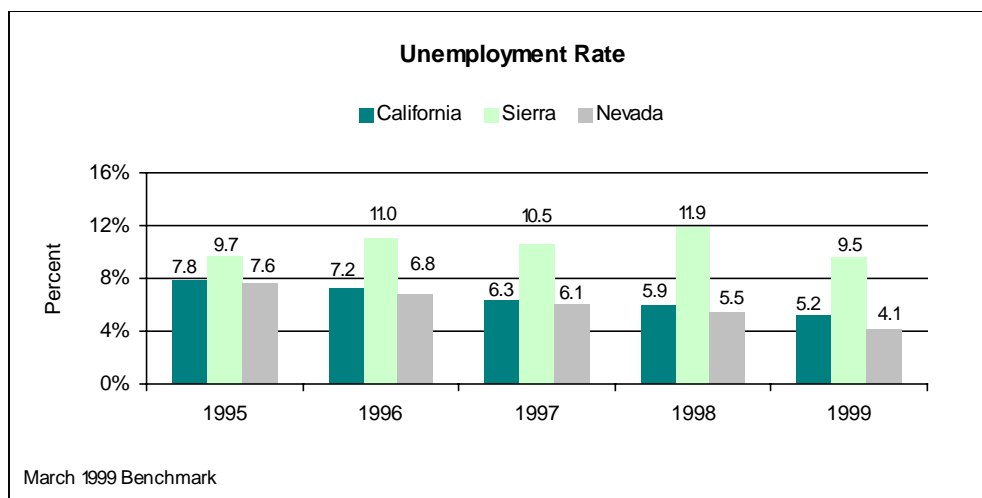
Recreation and tourism have cyclical, seasonal effects on Sierra County's economy. Despite fluctuations in labor force and industry employment, Sierra County is projected to experience growth over the next several years.

LABOR FORCE

Sierra county's economy is influenced by seasonal variations in employment. For example, each summer, recreational activities create employment opportunities in resorts, restaurants, and other trade and service industries. However, many of those jobs are not available during the winter months. Over the years 1995 to 1999, there was an overall decline in the civilian labor force in Sierra County.

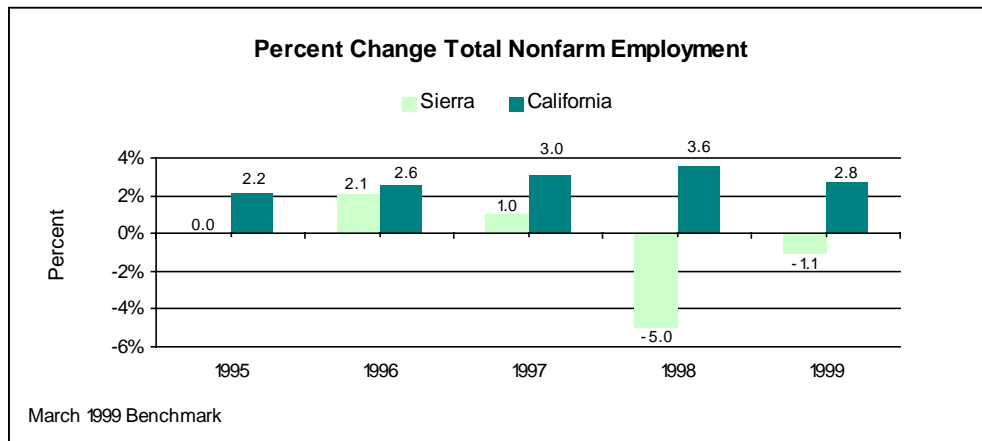


Over the years 1995 to 1999, the annual average unemployment rate for Sierra County has been somewhat volatile. The unemployment rate has, for example, dropped from a five-year high of 11.9 percent in 1998 to a five-year low of 9.5 percent in 1999.

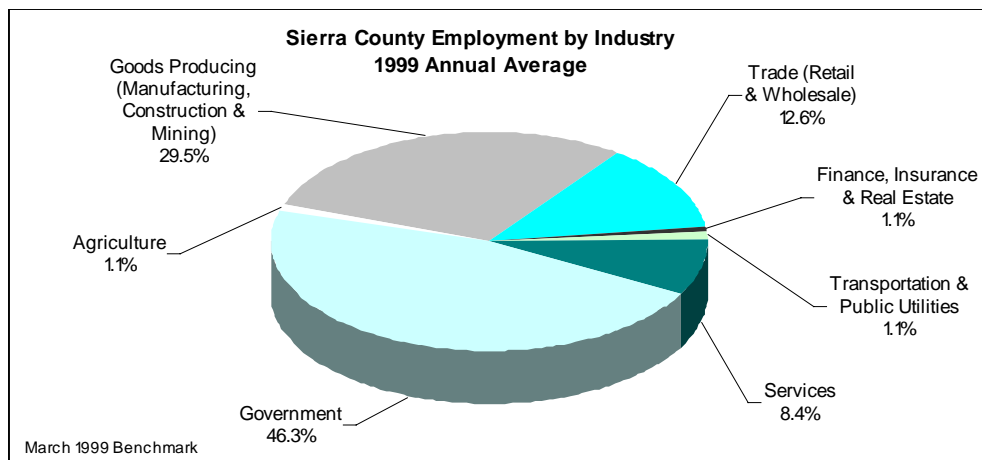


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

After recording growth in nonfarm wage and salary employment in the years 1996 and 1997, Sierra County posted a decline in 1998 due, in part, to a loss of jobs in the government sector. In 1999, there was a loss of jobs in the goods producing industry division, but, overall, the county's rate of loss in nonfarm employment decreased.



In 1999, the government industry sector dominated Sierra County employment providing over 46 percent of the total. Projections indicate that most of the new jobs in total nonfarm employment will be in services, goods producing and government. Services is projected to add about 60 jobs, a growth of over 66 percent.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Occupational projections for Sierra County are combined with projections for Alpine, El Dorado, Nevada and Placer counties and published as the Golden Sierra Consortium projections.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 66.7%
	Registered Nurses – 580 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.33
	General Managers, Top Executives – 520 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.81
	Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 510 job openings. Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.60
	Data Processing Equipment Repairers – 470 job openings. Repair, maintain, and install electronic computers (mainframes, minis, and micros), peripheral equipment, and word processing systems. Post-secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$15.18
	Amusement, Recreation Attendants – 450 job openings. Perform any of a variety of attending duties at amusement or recreation facility. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.72
Associated Occupations	GOODS PRODUCING 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 26.9%
	Misc. Helpers, Laborers – Hand, NEC – 460 job openings. Perform a broad array of helper and laborer jobs that require little training; assist more skilled production, construction, operating and maintenance workers with routine, physical work under close supervision. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.14
	Electrical And Electronic Engineers – 410 job openings. Design, develop, test and supervise the manufacture and installation of electrical and electronic equipment, components or systems, computers and related equipment and systems for commercial, industrial, military or scientific use. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$30.55
	Electrical And Electronic Engineering Technicians And Technologists – 370 job openings. Apply electrical and electronic theory and related knowledge to design, build, test, repair, and modify developmental, experimental, or production electrical equipment in industrial or commercial plants. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$18.36
	Computer Engineers – 270 job openings. Assist in the selection and installation of computer systems by providing technical advice and support. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$32.24
	Electrical Equipment Assemblers Precision – 250 job openings. Assemble or modify prototypes or final assemblies of electrical or electronic equipment., Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.23
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 6.5%
	Fire Fighters – 190 job openings. Control and extinguish fires, protect life and property, maintain equipment as employees of city township, State or Federal Government. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.75
	Corrections Officers And Jailers – 160 job openings. Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.24
	Sheriffs And Deputy Sheriffs – 110 job openings. Enforce law and order in rural or unincorporated districts or serve legal processes of courts. May patrol courthouse, guard court or grand jury, or escort defendants. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.94
	Police Patrol Officers – 90 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$26.29
	Highway Maintenance Workers – 50 job openings. Maintain highways, municipal and rural roads, airport runways, and rights-of-way in safe condition. Short-term on-the-job-training. Median Hourly Wage - \$15.09 \$

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
State of California
Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division
(916) 262-2162